

"Randolph (Benton) heard that the best way to extract an arrow was to push it on through, and then, having cut off the iron-barbed head, to withdraw the naked shaft; or--if pushing the arrow through seemed dangerous to life--to wait until the blood had softened the sinews fastening the head to the shaft, when the shaft might easily be drawn away, leaving the head in the wound. Then the head might, perhaps, be butchered out with a skinning knife."

I believe that it would be impossible to tell from the size, shape, or material of a steel arrow-point, the name of the tribe which made or used the point.

In 1840, the Kiowas, Comanches, Apaches, Cheyennes and Arapahoes had a Council of Peace on the Arkansas River, below Bent's Fort, in what is now Bent County, Colorado. The ancestral home of the Kiowas was in and about the Wichita Mountains in Southwestern Oklahoma. The Comanches ranged the Panhandle of Texas. Accordingly, the Panhandle of Oklahoma was probably crossed by member of both tribes on their way to the Council. In 1838, the Cheyennes and Arapahoes had fought a drawn battle with the Kiowas, Comanches and Apaches on Wolf Creek, which heads in the Texas Panhandle and flows eastward into Oklahoma. The Cheyennes and Arapahoes must have traversed this portion of Oklahoma on their way to the battle. It is my opinion that all of the tribes mentioned were using steel points to some extent about that time. The Santa Fe trail crossing Western Cimarron County was carrying traffic at this time. The white trader was no longer a novelty to the Plains Indian.

Captain W. S. Nye, writing in the "Daily Oklahoman" January 30, 1938, and referring to the Kiowas and Comanches, states:

"Unfortunately, the outbreak of the Civil War caused the United States forces to be withdrawn from the area, and the Confederates did not place strong garrisons therein; as a consequence the Indians again commenced to depredate. Texas was not the only state to suffer from these forays. Kansas and New Mexico began to feel the threat of the iron-barbed arrow and the scalping knife."

In 1860 the Santa Fe trail carried its greatest traffic. In 1864 Kit Carson and Government troops had a big battle with the Comanches, Kiowa, Arapahoes; Carson was aided by Utes and Apaches. Probably, the arrows used in this battle were pointed with steel. In 1868, Col. A. W. Evans with government troops had a battle with about 200 Comanches and Kiowas (in Kiowa County, Oklahoma?). It is inter-